and cinereous. Superiors have the usual three small spots on outer third of wing extending in a row from costa ; there is a row of small yellowish white spots running across the centre of the wing in a line with the apex and middle of the interior margin ; they vary in number in different specimens from none to four or five. Inferiors immaculate. *Underside:* superiors practically as above. Infeiiors very finely mottled with light gray scales and showing in centre of the wings a number of small, indistinct whitish spots. The sexes are alike, except in the usual difference in size and the female having less of the central spots on superiors above. This species is dark as in *vialis*, *nysa*, *samoset* and *textor*, and in markings nearest to *œnus*, but is entirely different in color.

Described from specimens from Blanco, Comal and Nueces Counties, Texas.

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VESPEROCTENUS FLOHRI Bates.

By Geo. H. Horn, M.D.

The insect indicated by this name will probably remain unseen to the vast majority of the readers of News, and would have remained unmentioned here but for an article in a recent number of "Ent. Mo. Mag."

Vesperoctenus, at first glance, resembles a longicorn of the Leptura series apart from its flabellate antennæ, and was described by Mr. Bates as allied to that series, especially to *Vesperus*, from which it partly derives its name.

My knowledge of the insect came through a pair of males collected in the Peninsula of California, and were referred to me for study with the other Coleoptera collected there by the California Academy of Sciences. I would certainly have described the species as entirely new had not a timely visit from Mr. Flohr prevented.

In my paper on the Coleoptera of Baja California I could not agree with Mr. Bates, but placed the insect in the Rhipiceridæ, giving my reasons and citing Callirhipis as a convenient point of comparison.

In the article in "Ent. Mo. Mag." Mr. Gahan defends the opinion of Mr. Bates, and, of course, criticizes mine.

At present I do not propose to continue any argument, having said all that I deem necessary on my own part, and will leave to others the adoption of either view. My comparison with Callirhipis was, as stated, a mere matter of convenience from its flabel-

late antennæ, but my argument is intended to apply to the entire family as characterized in the books, the genera composing it being but few in number and differing widely.

My principal object in writing these lines is to object to a method of argument on Mr. Gahan's part, and it is not the first time that the method has been used by my English friends in argument against myself and Dr. LeConte. It is the assumption that we have no collections for reference beyond our own species. "In fact, I believe that Dr. Horn himself, were he really acquainted with *Vesperus* * * *" such is the insinuation, and it is untrue.

Again, I certainly did not intend "to impute carelessness or worse" to Mr. Bates, but I must be allowed the privilege to differ in opinion when I think there is reason.

No one can have higher regard for Mr. Bates than I, but no matter how learned a man may be it is possible to be in error at times and there is not a master in Entomology in whose writings there are not errors of judgment or through carelessness, or even both.

Had I been compelled to admit that I had not seen *Vesperus* the criticism of Mr. Gahan is equally a criticism of the published descriptions and figures of that insect.

AT Cumana (a city of Venezuala), the use of the Cucujus (*Elater noctilucus*) is forbidden, as the young Spanish ladies used to carry on a correspondence at night with their lovers by means of the light derived from them.—*Baird's Cyclop. Nat. Sci.*, London, 1858.

THE *Mantis religiosa* of America is said to make a most interesting pet when tamed, which can be done in a very short time and with but very little pains. Professor Glover, of the Maryland Agricultural College, tells me he once knew a lady in Washington who kept a *Mantis* on her window, which soon grew so tame as to take readily a fly or other small insect out of her hand.—*Cowan's Curious Facts.*

CHERNETID ATTACHED TO A FLY.—In Europe a number of Chernetids have been found attached to various insects. In this country, I believe, but one species has been recorded,—*Chelifer alius* on *Alaus oculatus* by Leidy. This appears to be the same as *Ch. oblongus* Say. I have recently received, through Mr. C. F. Baker, a specimen of *Chelanops pallipes* Bks., collected by Mr. J. C. Cowan at Hotchkiss, Colo., which was attached to a fly—a species of Dexidæ. *Ch. pallipes* was previously known from California.—NATHAN BANKS.